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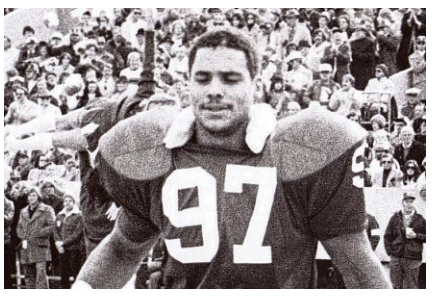

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Former Kentucky basketball coach Eddie Sutton dies at 84

BY JERRY TIPTON
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Eddie Sutton, whose four seasons at Kentucky showed that the combination of an acclaimed coach and an elite program does not guarantee success, died on Saturday. He was 84.

Sutton's 806 victories made him one of only 11 coaches who have won 800 or more Division I men's college basketball games. He became the first coach to lead four schools to the NCAA Tournament: Creighton, Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma State.

Yet his trouble-filled time as UK coach and a subsequent acknowledgment that he was an alcoholic were cited as reasons it took so long for him to be elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Some considered this unfair.

"Nobody in the history of the game has taught one-on-one team defense like Eddie Sutton," one of his former players, Doug Gottlieb, said in 2017 for a planned documentary on Sutton. "It's awful we judge him basically upon one or two bad moments.

"The man is an alcoholic. The man is a great basketball coach. Those two things can coincide and be true."

Last month, after seven times being named a finalist. Sutton was at last chosen to the Hall.

His family released the following statement upon his death Saturday:

"Our beloved Dad and Papa Coach Eddie Sutton, age 84, passed away peacefully of natural causes the evening of May 23rd at his home in South Tulsa. He was surrounded by his three sons and their families, which include his nine adoring grandchildren. He is reunited with his number one assistant, his bride Patsy Sutton, who passed away in January of 2013 after 54 years of marriage."

From the very start, controversy clouded Sutton's four seasons as Kentucky coach. He angered fans in Arkansas, where he was a coaching icon, by saying at his introductory

SEE COACH, 2A

FRANK ANDERSON Herald-Leader File Photo
UK coach Eddie Sutton, shown in 1988, won 806 games in his career and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame last month.

Critic of Beshear's virus plan now a target

BY JACK BRAMMER
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On the first Saturday in May this year, about 1,000 people gathered at the Kentucky Capitol to protest Gov. Andy Beshear's handling of the coronavirus pandemic with his orders to close businesses and public activities.

Many in the crowd did not wear masks, ignoring a strong recommendation by the Democratic governor to curb the spread of the virus. Most did not follow Beshear's call to stay at least 6 feet apart. Some waved Confederate flags. One sign called the governor "Adolph Beshear."

One of the speakers at the gathering was Republican state Rep. Savannah Maddox, a freshman lawmaker who is not shy about speaking her mind, which often makes her critics cringe.

After denouncing Beshear's COVID-19 policies, she loudly proclaimed, "Nobody is ever going to force me to get a vaccine." Several in the crowd responded to her comment with "yeahs."

DANIEL DESROCHERS ddesrochers@herald-leader.com
Rep. Savannah Maddox speaks at a protest against Gov. Andy Beshear's coronavirus restrictions at the Kentucky Capitol on April 15.

Only 32 and with less than two years of experience as a Kentucky lawmaker, Savannah Maddox has become one of the leading voices of opposition to Beshear.

Admired by the far right, Maddox has become a target of scorn by many who oppose her political views. A private group called "Kentuckians Against Savannah Maddox" has emerged on Facebook.

Group member Chuck Eddy, a Republican who is running against U.S. Rep. Andy Barr of Lexington in this year's primary election for that seat, said Maddox bothers him.

ADMIRED BY THE FAR RIGHT, MADDOX HAS BECOME A TARGET OF SCORN BY MANY WHO OPPOSE HER POLITICAL VIEWS.

"What Savannah Maddox is saying and doing is pure politics," he said. "I think Beshear is handling this conservatively. I believe he's trying to save lives."

Her critics might bristle even more when they hear that Maddox says she is "humbled by many" who have encouraged her to run for governor in 2023 against Beshear.

"Yes, some of us have told her she should run for governor," said Tony Doane, a retired GE employee and a member of the Grant County

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